

Support coming from all over the country!

All kinds of people from all over the country come to support various locations in Fukushima. Here are messages from two such people.



Osaka Volunteer Association of Social Welfare
Keiko Ebuchi

This is my first time in Fukushima, but when I saw the wonderful view of snow capped mountains and Sakura blossoms next to each other, suddenly I fell in love with this place. Our office is in Fukushima-ku in Osaka. So, I feel a kind of link with Fukushima. I hope we can have a long companionship.



Tokyo Volunteer Coordinator Association Japan (NPO)
Mariko Goto

It is natural to be hesitant or unwilling to accept help by strangers for duties that need to be done around your own house. But please let us lend a helping hand. We wish to support you with overcoming this crisis. We all are always with you.

To be involved in voluntary activities comfortably and safely.

Voluntary activities should be aimed at reconstructing the victims' life and community. Incidents and accidents however, can end up hurting volunteers and victims both physically or mentally. In this section, you will learn some rules concerning voluntary activities through the next 4 "mistakes".

1 Treading on a nail while volunteering.

As water softens wooden boards, it is possible for you to accidentally tread on a nail even when you are working inside the house. Also, there are pieces of glasses and bent nails scattered in many places under the floor. When it gets warmer, we tend to stop wearing layers of cloths, but this makes us susceptible to being injured.

There are volunteers who have been injured by treading on nails. There are various kinds of germs in puddles and in mud. So, please pause and think carefully when you choose your clothes.



2 A volunteer has not come back!?

One day, although it was getting dark in the evening, one volunteer didn't come back to the office nor answer their cell phone. He was introduced by Disaster Volunteer Activities Center and later sent to do relief activities. We were all worried that some accident might have happened to him. At last, we succeed in making contact with him at night. He was at his hotel, and explained that it was because work was prolonged by an hour that he went directly back to the hotel. He didn't notice the call because he was taking a bath. Our staff members were all relieved at once. Please do not forget to contact us when you finished your work.



3 Respecting people's privacy

One day in the emergency shelter, a volunteer talked with a victim who had lost his family and house by the Tsunami and became distressed. The volunteer couldn't keep his feelings and carelessly talked about the victim in loud voice with his volunteer companions in the smoking area of the emergency shelter. One victim who overheard their conversation cautioned them not to talk about others so carelessly.

The privacy of victim is easily breached in emergency shelter therefore we should be very careful to keep our manners.



4 Taking many pictures indiscriminately.

As I came from a great distance to be involved in this volunteering activity, I decided to take many pictures for use in my blog and show them to my friends. I kept on taking pictures of destroyed houses and piles of rubble. Suddenly, I noticed a local person was staring at me with sad eyes...

Destructed houses and townships are the property of their owners who used to love them. Don't take pictures of them indiscriminately. Even when you are only taking a few photos don't forget to first get permission from those around.



For people taking shelter

What is it like to live in temporary housing(kasetsu jutaku)?

What is temporary housing (kasetsu jutaku)?

Temporary housing (officially, Ohkyu Kasetsu Jutaku) is a temporary residence that is lent to sufferers who lost their houses to a natural disaster. They are lent by government based on the Disaster Relief Act. The lease is for 2 years in principle. Fukushima prefecture needs 14,000 temporary houses and is aiming to supply all of them before the end of July. Although times may vary between different communities, calls for occupants have generally commenced since April.

What about household appliances?

In temporary housing, "air conditioner" "lights" "LP gas ring" are prepared as a standard fixture. In addition to it, 6 more household appliances for life support will be given to occupants of the temporary housing as a contribution from Japanese Red Cross Society. This is the first time that such contributions have been made during a Japanese disaster.

In Fukushima prefecture, the first contributions was given out in Iwaki city at April 21.

In some municipalities, there are communities which are planning to contribute cooking equipments, food and so on.

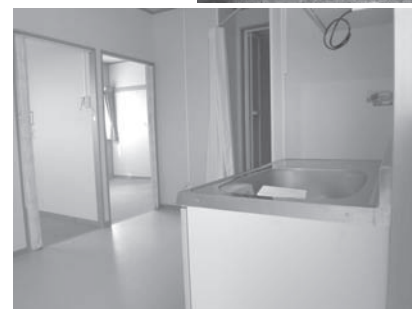
For example, occupants of temporary housing in Shinchi-machi began to move in from April 25. They will be given contributions such as "a pan" "a fry pan" "shelf" "futon" "food (rice, miso, soy sauce, vegetables, instant noodles etc.) These things were sent to the city as relief supplies, and in order to utilize them in the best way, the city decided to distribute them to the occupants. (April 24th, 2011)

The Household Appliances Set is

- 1.a washing machine
- 2.a refrigerator
- 3.a TV
- 4.a rice cooker
- 5.a microwave
- 6.an electric pot



Outside of the temporary housing (Shinchi-machi)



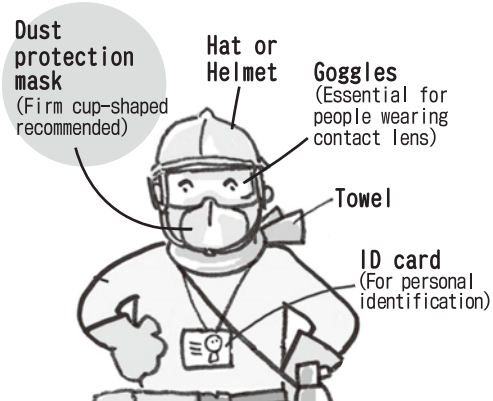
Inside of the temporary housing (Kori-machi)

To use masks effectively

Don't forget to wear dustproof masks while doing volunteer activities.

Whether you work inside or outside, you are in danger of inhaling dust and dirt. Don't forget to wear (dustproof masks) in order to minimize amount of hazardous materials that can enter into your body. It is also important to wear dustproof masks correctly. Goggles are necessary in some cases.

Various hazardous materials are attached to dust which often came from destructed buildings and drifts. If you have a low function respiratory system or allergy, make sure to thoroughly check your equipment.



Editorial postscript

I would like to express my deepest thanks to those who are volunteering and supporting victims directly in Fukushima prefecture or supporting Fukushima from their hometowns.

Also through the webpage, which began at the same time with the first issue, we will inform you various topics about Fukushima. Please take a look and continue your support. (Okawara)

赤い羽根共同募金

Let's persevere,
Japan
Let's persevere,
Tohoku

Let's persevere,
Fukushima

Please see the latest information on our homepage
<http://www.pref-f-svc.org>

